

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Chief, Research & Development Branch

FROM : Chief, Research & Development Laboratory

SUBJECT: Security Considerations in [redacted] Programs

DATE: 30 March 1955

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1. The joint USAF-CIA Steering Committee meeting held in the Pentagon on 29 March 1955 generated a number of questions regarding security which should be considered by this Agency in the very near future. Previous joint security agreements apparently are not sufficient in light of the advanced status of the subject programs. The Air Force is anxious to secure guidance from this Agency and feels that the policy for handling these programs should be generated by this Agency. The Air Force is presently operating by disseminating the information on these programs on a strict "need to know" basis. However, the definition of "need to know" in this instance leaves much to be desired.

2. The specific problems mentioned by the Air Force are as follows:

- a. To what extent may the information on the [redacted] program be transmitted within USAF? 50X1
- b. To what extent may the information on the [redacted] [redacted] programs be disseminated with the USAF? 50X1  
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- c. To whom and to what extent shall the [redacted] [redacted] programs be divulged within NSA? 50X1  
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- d. Would CIA consider a joint Army-Navy-USAF-CIA high level policy meeting wherein the [redacted] technique and [redacted] are openly discussed. 50X1  
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3. It was brought out by Colonel Konkel that they are somewhat uncertain as to the way in which liaison with NSA should be conducted. For instance, a [redacted] from NSA made contact with WADC and requested information on the [redacted] programs on the basis that NSA is [redacted]. The Air Force refused to divulge the information at the time, but felt that this seemed to be an area which represented "need to know". Also Colonel Konkel voiced the opinion that the NSA should soon be made cognizant of the [redacted] programs so that planning might be initiated [redacted].

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DOC 39	REV DATE 5 1964	BY 018375
ORIG COMP 033	OPI 56	TYPE 02
ORIG CLASS 5	PAGES 2	REV CLASS C
NEXT REV 2010		AUTH: [redacted]

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4. With regard to other military services, Colonel Konkel has put out a "feeler" to the Navy suggesting that a joint discussion of [ ] might be both possible and profitable. Colonel Konkel's reasoning was that the Navy system is so similar to the [ ] system and that the Navy might suddenly decide to put their system into operational use on a large scale, thereby compromising both the Navy system and the USAF-CIA system. Therefore, he felt that some sort of joint security policy should be generated for the mutual protection of the military services. Colonel Konkel would like to know what the CIA reaction might be to such a plan. Colonel Konkel is also aware that the Signal Corps is conducting programs and operations that might benefit from the use of [ ] or similar equipment. Therefore, he was interested in knowing if the CIA plans to divulge [ ] information to the Signal Corps.

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5. At this Steering Committee meeting it was further learned that the SAC has queried Headquarters USAF with respect to the delivery time of one [ ] base station. It was implied that the SAC requirement is really for a [ ] system and that they desired to use the equipment in conjunction with an ionosphere sounding project. General White, Vice Chief, of Staff for SAC, generated this query and is awaiting a reply from Headquarters USAF. Col. Konkle stated that he would request guidance from CIA regarding the fulfillment of this request.

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6. The above discussion summarizes the problems which exist with regard to dissemination of [ ] The writer promised to attempt to get a statement of the CIA position with regard to these problems which would be based on the present status of the subject programs. Col. Konkle is awaiting this information.

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